

**Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Cornwall, VT
February 2, 2016**

Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:10 p.m.

Present: David Dodge, Lew Castle, Alissa Shethar, Christine Chapline, Chuck Burkins, Craig Zondag, David Whitcomb (Mansfield Heliflight)

2. Approve January minutes

The January minutes are approved.

3. Dave Whitcomb, Mansfield Heliflight

Dave W. was our fixed wing plane pilot and is familiar with our operation. He now works for Mansfield Heliflight, based in Milton, VT. Dave W. is here to discuss the possibility of using Mansfield Heliflight's service for aerial larviciding. Mansfield Heliflight routinely does cover crop seeding using helicopters. The helicopter used is a R44 Robinson piston helicopter with a seed hopper that carries 500# and throws up to a 75' swath. The helicopter is equipped with an AgNav and can provide the map data required by the VAA. They also have a pneumatic system (on a truck) to fill the hopper, although smaller acreage would still be hand loaded. If we have 50 acres or less to treat, we would like to use hand treatment with Bti briquettes, but 100 or more acres will need to be treated by air.

The helicopter could be loaded at the treatment site or at the airport.

Mansfield Heliflight charges by the acre when they do crop seeding and that is likely how they would charge LFICD to drop larvicide. Dropping larvicide could go at a faster speed than seeding cover crops; it will take some experimentation to calibrate the hopper, speed and altitude.

Dave W. believes from speaking with other operators (Chuck Webber, Rebecca Air) that the areas should be blanketed rather than spot treating them, which wastes time, money and product. The helicopter would be good at spot treating, however, if the VAA cannot be convinced to blanket the valley.

Lew C. has spoken with Will Mathis (BLSG) and thinks that the BLSG will also be interested in Mansfield Heliflight's proposal.

Dave W. does not anticipate requiring a minimum acreage. The helicopter can do approx. 300-400 acres per day at 25 knots; the speed could possibly be faster, which would bring the cost/acre down. Cost would be per acre treated + per hour for flight time to and from the helicopter base.

Helicopter downdraft will move the product through tree foliage; it could potentially be used for the ponds on Snake Mountain.

Mansfield Heliflight is going through the process of getting their company applicator's license and Dave will get his pilot's applicator's license renewed. Dave W. will work on a contact proposal for us.

Craig will order blank product for calibration.

Chuck will provide the treatment area maps in a format compatible with their AgNav.

Dave W. contact info: cell phone (802) 793-4600; email: dave@mansfieldheliflight.com

4. VAA update/ Adapco Bti briquettes

Craig and Meg met with Alan Graham on Friday, 1/29/16 and presented our adult trapping data. LFICD and BLSG should get together on the format to present the data to Alan G. The adult trapping data is important to make the argument that the dip threshold is too high, however, it isn't useful for treatment purposes unless we can correlate the adults in the traps with where they have hatched from. Craig also discussed the placement of the adult traps with Alan; 8 traps would be a lot of work for 2 or 3 people. Meg knows of someone who might be interested in helping as a 3rd field tech.

Craig will get back to the microscope vendor to choose a microscope for the adult mosquito ID work.

Craig asked if he could purchase business cards to hand out to landowners, etc.—permission granted. Craig also asked for permission to purchase waders for a 3rd field tech—permission granted.

Meg is studying for her pesticide applicators license. Craig had purchased the latest version of the Cornell study books.

Craig also reports that the larvicide trailer is maintaining temperature.

Bti briquettes:

Craig has been investigating long lasting Bti products for use in small, hand treatable areas.

The state (VPAC) has not approved all Bti products for use; they like to look at the inactive ingredients in individual products. Alan Graham is pushing for the approval of all Bti products. Potentially useful products include 45 day and 150 day sustained release briquettes (Fourstar). These are not currently approved, but could be a game changer for us. The briquettes sink and so will remain where placed. They will maintain effectiveness when dry and reactivate when rewetted. Do we need to change the grant agreement to be reimbursed for this product if it is approved for our use? Will Mathis (BLSG) would like to purchase \$2000 worth of this product to try. The briquettes would be great for the WRP project ponds, SD Ventures, and for concentrated hatches that are found during dipping expeditions.

The VPAC meeting (to approve pesticide products for use in the state) has already happened (we think), but Craig will write up a proposal for the approval of these briquettes and we hope that Alan G. can push it through VPAC.

5. Weybridge and Select Board meeting updates:

Weybridge is using our suggested language for their vote to join the district.

The Cornwall and Bridport Select Boards have both approved the requested changes to the Formation Agreement (changing the number of LFICD Board members and changing the annual compilation to every 2 years).

6. 2016 Season Preparation:

Covered under Agenda items #2 and #4.

7. Adjourn: 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: March 1, 2016, 5:00, at Bridport Town Offices.